

aperture, advancing the guidewire through the casing and into the desired intracorporeal location.

25. A method of advancing a flexible guidewire to a desired intracorporeal location using only one hand, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing (i) a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end, (ii) a casing holding the guidewire, the casing being formed in a loop and having an outlet for the guidewire, and (iii) a straightening element having a guidewire exit point and a tube portion adjacent the guidewire exit point, the tube portion being configured and dimensioned to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire as the guidewire is passed through the tube portion, the straightening element being adjacent the guidewire exit point;

(the casing sidewall) defining an aperture exposing a portion of the guidewire and through which the exposed length of the guidewire can be manually engaged, the aperture being located between the outlet of the casing and the tube portion of the straightening element; and

(B) with only one hand grasping the casing sidewall and with at least one finger of the hand manually engaging the exposed portion of the guidewire through the casing aperture, advancing the guidewire through the casing and into the desired intracorporeal location.

26. A method of advancing a flexible guidewire to a desired intracorporeal location using only one hand, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a flexible guidewire and a casing holding the guidewire, the casing being formed in a loop, having a portion extending beyond the loop to a

guidewire exit port and defining an aperture in the casing to expose a length of the guidewire and through which aperture the length of the guidewire can be manually engaged in order to displace the guidewire relative to the exit port, the aperture being positioned near the exit port; and

(B) with only one hand grasping the casing and with at least one finger of the hand manually engaging the exposed portion of the guidewire through the casing aperture, advancing the guidewire through the casing and into the desired intracorporeal location.

B1 cont.
1/27. A method of advancing a flexible guidewire to a desired intracorporeal location using only one hand, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing (i) a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end, (ii) a casing for holding the guidewire, the casing being formed in a loop, having a portion extending beyond the loop to a guidewire exit port and defining an aperture in the casing sidewall to expose a length of the guidewire and through which aperture the length of the guidewire can be manually engaged in order to displace the guidewire relative to the exit port, the aperture being positioned near the exit port; and (iii) a straightener connected to the casing at the exit port which receives the guidewire displaced through the casing, the straightener including a straightener tube having a length and diameter to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire; and

(B) with only one hand grasping the casing sidewall and with at least one finger of the hand manually engaging the exposed portion of the guidewire through the casing aperture, advancing the guidewire through the casing and into the desired intracorporeal location.